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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Proposed Monthly Meetings with the
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

REFERENCE : DCI Memorandum, 29 March 1977
Subject: Meeting with Senator Inouye

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1. Your memorandum advising that Senator Inouye proposes to review all covert action and clandestine collection operations monthly with you suggests two points with which we are in full agreement. First, we should not concede the Committee's authority to approve or disapprove such operations, but would have no problem with their registering "objection or lack of objection." (Senate Resolution 400, the charter for the SSCI, itself provides that any briefing you give the Committee "does not constitute a condition precedent to the implementation of any such anticipated intelligence activity.") Secondly, the monthly frequency of such meetings is excessive, primarily on practical grounds and, with respect to covert action operations, should be unnecessary for the reasons you give in your paragraph four.

2. Our main difficulty with Senator Inouye's clandestine collection review proposal is that the Committee would be exposed to all clandestine collection operations. While the Hughes/Ryan amendment provides for the receipt by Congressional committees of reports on covert action matters, the same statutory authority does not exist for clandestine collection operations. As you know, the Chairman has proposed by letter (attached) that the Committee review those collection operations which entail high risk, and has asked for a hearing on 7 April to review such activities. I have already discussed with you the five categories of sensitive intelligence operations we have initially selected for such review. Please let me know if any further backup is necessary.

E. H. Knoche

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